

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 L-03 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 H-03 INR-10 IO-14 DRC-01

RSC-01 /067 W

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R 181452Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4722

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRA POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, UR CASC (GHARIBIAN, RAZMIK)(GHARIBIAN, HELEN SIMONIAN)

SUBJ: EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION: SPOUSE OF AMCIT GHARIBIAN

REF: MOSCOW 15633 AND PREVIOUS

1. RAZMIK GHARIBIAN, HUSBAND OF AMCIT HELEN GHARIBIAN OF DETROIT, PERSONALLY VISITED EMBASSY LATE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 14 (AFTER DISPATCH REFTEL) TO ADVISE AS TO STATUS HIS APPEAL TO HIGHER SOVIET AUTHORITIES OF ORAL REFUSAL OF EXIT PERMISSION GIVEN BY YEREVAN OVIR CHIEF NOV 16. GHARIBIAN INFORMED CONSOFF THAT HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED EARLIER SAME AFTERNOON BY REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL-UNION OVIR (LOCATED IN PARENT MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS), WHO PROMISED REPLY (VIA YEREVAN OVIR) WITHIN THREE WEEKS. ACCORDING GHARIBIAN, ALL-UNION OFFICIAL REFUSED TO GIVE ANY INDICATION OF WHETHER REPLY WOULD BE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE.

2. GHARIBIAN ALSO STATED TO CONSOFF THAT HE TOLD YEREVAN OVIR OFFICIALS THAT HE WISHES RENOUNCE SOVIET CITIZENSHIP. CONSOFF CAUTIONED THAT SINCE SUCH PROCEDURES ARE NOT APPLIED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN CASES OF EMIGRATION TO US, SUCH STEP MIGHT COMPLICATE HIS EFFORTS OBTAIN SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION. GHARIBIAN EXPRESSED VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS ONLY BY THREATENING TO RENOUNCE CITIZENSHIP THAT YEREVAN OVIR

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OFFICIALS AGREED KEEP HIS CASE "OPEN." HE STATED THAT IF APPEAL TO ALL-UNION OVIR FAILS, HOWEVER, HE WILL

CARRY THROUGH WITH RENUNCIATION. WHEN CONSOFF SUGGESTED THAT GHARIBIAN DEFER SUCH ACTION AT LEAST UNTIL EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED MFA REPLY TO ITS INTERCESSIONS ON HIS BEHALF, GHARIBIAN REPLIED THAT HE IS IN STAT OF DESPERATION AND THAT NO OTHER COURSE OF ACTION WILL BE OPEN TO HIM. CONSOFF NONETHELESS REQUESTED GHARIBIAN TO AT LEAST CONTACT HIM ONCE AGAIN BEFORE TAKING SUCH STEP, AND LATTER AGREED.

3. COMMENT: GHARIBIAN'S PESSIMISTIC STATE OF MIND WAS UNDOUBTEDLY AGGRAVATED BY FACT THAT HE HAD DIFFICULTY GAINING ACCESS TO EMBASSY ALTHOUGH HE SHOWED SOVIET "MILITIAMAN" POSTED AT EMBASSY ENTRANCE (STANDARD) WRITTEN INVITATION FROM CONSOFF WHICH REFERS IN BOTH RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH TO ASSURANCES GIVE BY MFA ON CONSULAR ACCESS. ACCORDING GHARIBIAN, "MILITIAMAN," IN DENYING ENTRY, REPLIED TO EFFECT THAT "ONLY INVITATION TO SEE CONSUL IS A RED PASSPORT" (I.E., SOVIET PASSPORT FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL). FORTUNATELY, CONSOFF WHO HAPPENED TO BE ENTERING EMBASSY AT SAME TIME INTERVENED AND ESCORTED GHARIBIAN INSIDE.

4. DEPT MAY WISH INFORM MRS. GHARIBIAN OF INFORMATION IN PARA 1.EMEMPTSOMMERLATTE

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